

July 15, 2003

Licensee: STP Nuclear Operating Company

Facility: South Texas Project, Unit 1

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF HEADQUARTERS, REGION IV, AND STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY (STPNOC) MAY 29, 2003, TELEPHONE CONVERSATION REGARDING SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 1, BOTTOM MOUNTED INSTRUMENTATION (BMI) LEAKAGE ISSUE - STATUS OF ACTIVITIES (TAC NO. MB8435)

On May 29, 2003, the NRC Headquarters and Region IV staff held a telephone conference call with STPNOC, the licensee for South Texas Project, Unit 1. The conference call was a continuation of the ongoing weekly discussions following the discovery of leakage at the interface of reactor vessel bottom head and BMI penetrations 1 and 46. Enclosure 1 is a list of participants. Enclosure 2 outlines the agenda of the conversation.

The licensee indicated that it experienced a problem in thimble tube removal from penetration No. 31. It will investigate the cause.

Regarding the nondestructive examination (NDE) activities, the licensee stated that the ongoing examination did not indicate any change in the crack indication identification. The licensee has found no indications in the J-groove weld areas. The licensee has observed small apparent fabrication anomalies. The Helium bubble leak test and profilometry have been scheduled during the planned repair window.

Regarding measurement of wastage, the licensee has completed some work on demonstrating the measurement technique. The actual measurements will be done during the early part of the planned repair window.

The licensee stated that it has confirmed the five crack indications in penetrations 1 and 46. When completed, bubble tests will give visual confirmation of the location and path of indicated leakages. These tests will also confirm whether the leaks are inside tube or outside tube initiated.

The inspection results presently indicate that there are 3 axial indications in penetration No. 1. One of the indications is the leak path. The other two crack indications are not exposed to the water. The leaking crack indication starts just above the J-groove weld and ends below the J-groove weld. Penetration No. 46 has one crack indication not exposed to water, and one starts above the J-groove and is exposed to water. The crack indications do not appear to be inside tube initiated.

Preliminary assessment shows absence of crack indications in the remaining 56 penetrations, indicating that probably, the cracks are not primary water stress-corrosion cracking induced.

The mockup will arrive at the site next Tuesday. The design activities for repairs are on schedule. Earliest date for the start of the repairs is likely to be June 11. The tubes are expected to be cut on June 14 or 15. The licensee will reflect the changes in the schedule in the next revision.

The call was then ended.

/RA/

Mohan C. Thadani, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing and Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-498

Enclosures: as stated

cc w/Enclosures: See next page

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Licensee's Participants

Dave Rencurrel	Manager, Plant Operations
Mark McBurnett	Manager, Quality & Licensing
Steve Thomas	Manager, Plant Design Engineering
Michael Lashley	Engineering Supervisor
Alex Kent	Manager Testing Programs
Harry Murray	BMI Project Manager
Wayne Harrison	Sr. Staff Licensing Engineer
Ed Conway	Public Information

NRC Participants

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Bob Gramm
Karen Gott
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Bill Reckley
Steven Bloom
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Donnie Harrison
Jack Foster
Chris Gratton

Region IV

Dwight Chamberlain
Troy Pruett
Bill Johnson
Jim Adams
Mike Runyan
Tom Farnholtz

CONFERENCE CALL AGENDA

	What	How	Who	Time (minutes)
1.	Desired Outcomes & Agenda	Review	McBurnett	1400 CDT (2)
2.	Overall status of unit 1	Discuss	Rencurrel	(2)
3.	NDE status and any new results since last week	Discuss	Lashley	(10)
4.	Status of repair design activities	Discuss	Thomas	(10)
5.	Schedule status	Discuss	McBurnett	(5)
6.	Schedule for next call or other communications and feedback on call (+/Δ)	Discuss	McBurnett	(5)

South Texas, Unit 1

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May 2003

South Texas, Unit 1

-2-

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/RA/

Mohan C. Thadani, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
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Division of Licensing and Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Enclosures: as stated

cc w/ Enclosures: See next page

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RidsNrrDlpmLpdiv-1 (RGramm)

RidsNrrPMMThadani

RidsNrrLAMMcAllister

RidsNrrDe (RBarrett)

RidsRgn4MailCenter (AHowell)

RidsRgn4MailCenter (TFarnholtz)

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NRC-001

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